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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6563**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill moves the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) from the Department of Labor (DOL) to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Along with this relocation, the bill:

1. reassigns duties previously shared with or performed exclusively by the labor commissioner to OWC;
2. designates OWC, rather than DOL, as the lead agency for development of employment training strategies and initiatives to support the state's position in the knowledge economy;
3. removes approval and reporting requirements imposed upon OWC under current law; and
4. repeals DOL's implied authorization of orders and regulations issued by OWC, as well as DOL's authority to implement its own policies when OWC orders and regulations conflict with DOL's policies.

The bill also makes conforming and technical changes to reflect OWC's relocation to OPM.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

#### **REASSIGNED DUTIES FOLLOWING OWC RELOCATION TO OPM**

**Table 1: Reassigned Duties**

<b>DUTY</b>	<b>CURRENT ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT UNTIL THE BILL</b>	<b>BILL SECTION</b>
Serve as governor's principal workforce development policy advisor	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Serve as liaison between governor and any local, state, or federal organization or entity for workforce development matters	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Coordinate workforce development activities of all state agencies	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Coordinate state implementation of federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and advise and assist the governor with related matters	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Establish methods and procedures to ensure maximum involvement of members of public, legislature, and local officials in workforce development matters	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Enter into contractual agreements to carry out duties	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 1
Submit annual report to Governor and Education, Commerce, Labor, and Higher Education Committees about workforce shortages with recommended methods for addressing needs	Labor commissioner, with the assistance of OWC and DOL	OWC	§ 1
Call for and receive reports and information from any office, department, board, commission, or other agency as needed to carry out duties	Labor commissioner	OWC	§ 1
Select nine public members of the Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee (see BACKGROUND)	Labor commissioner, with recommendation of OWC staff, in conjunction with Permanent Commission on the Status of Women	OWC, in conjunction with Permanent Commission on the Status of Women	§ 2
Create an integrated system of state-wide industry advisory committees for each career cluster offered by technical high school and regional community technical college systems	Labor commissioner, with assistance of OWC	OWC	§ 3
Support industry advisory committees in the establishment of skills standards, curricula, and career ladders	DOL, technical high school and regional community technical college systems, and State Department of Education	OWC, technical high school and regional community technical college systems, and State Department	§ 3

		of Education	
Funding of Connecticut Career Choices (within available appropriations)	DOL, working with OWC	OWC	§ 6
Identify areas where local or regional boards of education should expand their academic offerings	Labor commissioner and OWC	OWC	§ 7

### **ELIMINATED APPROVAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

This bill eliminates the requirement that OWC receive labor commissioner approval for written participation guidelines it establishes for the film industry training program. It also removes the requirement that OWC report to the labor commissioner on the status of the film industry training program.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee Purpose and Membership***

The Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee promotes the creation of new career ladder programs and the enhancement of existing career ladder programs for occupations in Connecticut with a projected workforce shortage. It consists of 13 members: (1) the commissioners of labor, education, and public health; (2) the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education; and (3) nine public members with various areas of specific expertise.

Areas of public members' expertise include:

1. development of the early childhood education workforce,
2. job training for women,
3. development of the health care workforce,
4. labor market analysis,
5. health care employers,
6. early childhood education employers, and
7. workforce development programs.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13      Nay 7      (03/26/2013)